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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08049.0012

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Oscar Lee AVANT et al.

Application No.: 09/652,708

Filed: August 31, 2000

For: APPARATUS AND METHODS  
FOR READING AN  
IDENTIFICATION CODE FROM A  
MAILPIECE

) Group Art Unit: 3653

) Examiner: Daniel K. Schlak

) Confirmation No.: 3485

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

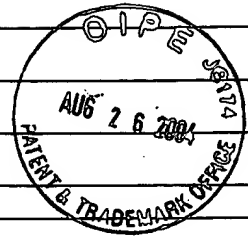
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 26, 2004

By: William J. Brogan  
William J. Brogan  
Reg. No. 43,515

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

Atty. Docket No. 08049.0012	Appln. No. 09/652,708
Applicant Oscar Lee AVANT et al.	
Filing Date August 31, 2000	Group: 3653



## 7U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial*	Document Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If Appropriate
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Applicant	Oscar Lee AVANT et al.		
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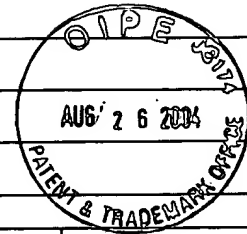
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Applicant	Oscar Lee AVANT et al.		
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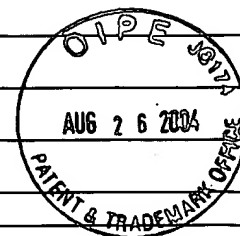
	Document Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation Yes or No
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	Avant et al., "Apparatus and Methods for Processing Mailpiece Information by an Identification Code Server," Pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/652,707, filed August 31, 2000.
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)	
	Brandt et al., "Apparatus and Methods for Processing Mailpiece Information in a Mail Processing Device using Sorter Application Software," Pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/652,275, filed August 31, 2000.

Examiner	Date Considered
*Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	
Form PTO 1449	Patent and Trademark Office - U.S. Department of Commerce

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